

REPORT OF THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS

During calendar year 2014, longtime Water & Sewer Commissioner Douglas R. North, opted to leave the Commission due to his busy schedule and personal commitments when his term expired in April. We wish him well and extend our thanks and gratitude to him for all his years of service to the Town and our Department. In turn, we welcomed back newly elected Commissioner, Marshall L. Harris, to the Board.

The new Monson Town Office/Police Station building was completed. Many hours were spent by our staff attending meetings and working with contractors and the job supervisor to ensure the water and sewer services to the structure were correct and as maintenance free as possible. We completed our MassDEP mandated Lead and Copper testing in August and the test results were excellent. The hydrant flushing program which ensures our water quality is at its best, took place in September with no major troubles. Also, all of our early production 929 hydrants (35 out of 98 total 929's) were upgraded to the latest specifications with the help of local machinist Scott Walker. Our quest to convert our maps and service records into a digital format and incorporate them into a geographical information system (GIS) continued with the update of our valve book. The valve book documents the location of each every water main valve in our system. In other business for 2014, we assisted the Parks and Recreation Department with their CPA project to install an irrigation system and drinking fountain at the Monson High School varsity baseball field.

In additional water operations activities, we repaired ten water service leaks and one water main break, updated / replaced twelve water services from the main to the curb stop, assisted in the replacement of seven services from the curb stop to the house, closed and capped three abandoned services, replaced two hydrants, added one new hydrant, replaced two mainline valves and added three new connections to the water system. We pumped 123,238,000 gallons of drinking water from the town wells at an average rate of 337,638 gallons per day. Our peak day was June 22, 2014 when we pumped 760,000 gallons. We recorded 44.28" of precipitation at our Palmer Road Station and responded to 339 Dig-Safe requests throughout our area of responsibility.

Major wastewater business for 2014 included the Town Meeting approval of the Hospital Road Pump Station Rehabilitation Project. This much needed project will consist of replacing all internal wastewater piping and valves, pumps, motors and variable frequency drives, flowmeter, pH probe and motor control center for a total cost \$800,000. Fortunately, our application for funding from the USDA has been accepted and we will receive \$200,000 in grant funds and the remaining \$600,000 will be a loan at 3% interest. Other business included the cutting and capping of the wastewater service to the former MDC campus which removed a major groundwater inflow contributor from our system but it also removed a significant revenue source as well. We revamped the exterior of the Hospital Road pump station with new paint, gutters and siding on the gable ends. We pumped a total of 136,656,000 gallons of wastewater to the Palmer Water Pollution Control Facility for treatment at an average rate of 374,400 gallons per day. Two new connections were added to the sewer system, we assisted in the replacement of four sewer services from the property line to the house and a new sewer inspection camera was purchased.

The Commission and staff of the Water and Sewer Department would like to thank all of the Town Departments and officials for their continued support. Special thanks go to Dorothy P. Jenkins and her staff at the Collector's Office for their superior collection efforts throughout the year. We are also grateful to the Highway Department and the Park and Recreation Department for their assistance this year. Thanks to the cooperation and support of Highway Surveyor John Morrell, we amassed 49 hours of backhoe time and 61 hours of truck time throughout the year at rates far below any outside contractor allowing our Department to operate more efficiently. Thank you to the Police and Fire Departments for providing assistance throughout the year. In closing, we most of all wish to thank our water and sewer customers for their patience and support as we strive to maintain and improve the water and sewer systems to provide you the best service possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul C. DeMaio, Chairman

Joseph M. Prior, Vice Chairman

Marshall L. Harris, Clerk

BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS